

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/780,784
Applicants : Michael R. Carey et al.
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Art Unit : 1746
Examiner : Joseph L. Perrin
Docket No. : US20030479

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance issued concurrently with the Notice of Allowance on August 24, 2007. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not accurately described the features of Applicants' independent claims when characterizing Applicants' invention.

Specifically, independent claim 1 recites a laundry appliance having: a cabinet enclosing a laundry treating mechanism; said cabinet having an openable door in a vertical front face thereof; a drawer slidably attached to said cabinet; a shelf mounted to said drawer, said shelf slidably movable between a horizontal forward position to cover an interior of said drawer when said drawer is in an open position and a horizontal rearward position to expose said interior of said drawer when said drawer is in said open position; and said shelf positioned a predetermined distance below said door sufficient to allow a laundry basket to be placed on said shelf when extended and to allow said door to be opened and closed with said basket on said extended shelf.

Independent claim 20 recites a support for a laundry appliance, comprising: a structure for positioning said laundry appliance a predetermined distance above a floor; a horizontally extendable and retractable drawer located in said structure; a shelf arranged in said drawer, said shelf slidably movable between a horizontal forward position to cover an interior of said drawer when said drawer is in an open position and a horizontal rearward position to expose said interior of said drawer when said drawer is in said open position; and said shelf comprises a recessed compartment in a top surface thereof, said shelf top surface has an opening therein which is surrounded by a ledge area, said recessed compartment including a body portion receivable in said opening and a lip surrounding said body portion, which lip rests on said ledge area when said body is received in said opening, said top surface further including an openable cover arranged to lie over said recessed compartment substantially coplanar with said top surface of said shelf when said recessed compartment is present in said shelf and to lie over said opening when said recessed compartment is removed from said shelf.

Independent claim 35 recites a support for a laundry appliance, comprising: a structure for positioning said laundry appliance a predetermined distance above a floor; a horizontally extendable and retractable drawer located in said structure; and a shelf arranged in said drawer which is movable between a position to cover an interior of said drawer when said drawer is in an open position and a position to expose said interior of said drawer when said drawer is in said open position; a recessed compartment in a top surface of said shelf; said shelf top surface has an opening therein which is surrounded by a ledge area, said recessed compartment including a body portion receivable in said opening and a lip surrounding said body portion, which lip rests on said ledge area when said body is received in said opening, said top surface further including an openable cover arranged to lie over said recessed compartment substantially coplanar with said top surface of said shelf when said recessed compartment is present in said shelf and to lie over said opening when said recessed compartment is removed from said shelf.

To avoid confusion and to clearly identify the different combinations of the features of Applicants' invention which has been allowed by the Examiner, Applicants respectfully suggest that Applicants' invention be defined as being allowable over the

prior art of record as the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the various combinations of elements set forth separately in independent claims 1, 20 and 35.

Respectfully submitted,

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